

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington

FOR RELEASE, MORNING NEWSPAPERS,
Friday, December 6, 1946

Press Service
No. S-167

Gold medals authorized by Congress for General George C. Marshall and Admiral Ernest J. King, topmost commanders of the Army and Navy during World War II, will both be struck from designs created by women sculptors.

An award of \$1,500 to Laura Gardin Fraser of Westport, Connecticut, for the design for the Marshall medal was made today by a jury which examined the works of nine competing sculptors - all men except Mrs. Fraser - at the office of Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint. A similar award was voted earlier this week to Miss Brenda Putnam of New York City for a design for the King medal, Miss Putnam winning in competition with six men.

An Act of Congress of March 22, 1946, directed that the medals be prepared, and President Truman commissioned the Mint to carry out the arrangements for them. The medals will be presented to the two commanders in the name of the people of the United States. They will be struck by the Mint within the next few months.

The obverse of the Marshall medal design bears a portrait of the General in profile, with an identifying inscription. Centered on the reverse is the insignia of the General Staff, with the five stars of General Marshall's rank and an inscription expressing the gratitude of the United States for victorious leadership.

Every sculptor participating in the two contests was an eminent artist. Mrs. Fraser, a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and of the National Academy, is well known for bold sculptural works such as a double equestrian statue of Generals Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee now being placed in Wyman Park, Baltimore. She created a Flying Pegasus in Brook Green Gardens near Charleston, South Carolina, and the Hitt Memorial in Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington. She designed the Lindbergh medal of 1928, the Washington Bicentennial medal of 1932, and numerous commemorative coins.

The jury which made the award to Mrs. Fraser was made up of Charles Seymour, curator of sculpture, National Gallery of Art, Washington; Lee Lawrie, Easton, Maryland, sculptor member of the Fine Arts Commission; Mrs. Ross, Director of the Mint; John R. Sinnock, engraver of the Mint; and Major General Harry K. Vaughan, Military Aide to the President.